



Westmarc Best of the West Awards

Phoenix International Raceway

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

Thank you for that very warm welcome. And thank you for the Inspiration in Leadership Award!

When we're together – I always feel as though I've come home ... And, really, I have.

My years on WESTMARC's Executive Committee and Board of Directors – (I'm still an Honorary Director of the Board, by the way) – will always have a special meaning for me.

And being right here at PIR, also has special meaning for me.

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, PIR serves as an economic engine for the entire state and region – and I recall driving the inaugural lap on its great new \$10 million racing surface.

What a thrill it was to drive a 550 horsepower Camaro ... though I confess I'm not comfortable in any vehicle that seems to pull a little to THE LEFT.

Let me begin by thanking Chairman of the Board, Sharon Grambow ... the WESTMARC Executive Committee ... and Michelle Lawrie, WESTMARC's president and CEO ... for honoring me with the West Valley Inspiration in Leadership award.

As you all know, my service to the people of Arizona – to the state I love – is drawing to a close.

The time I've spent in public office has been filled with extraordinary days – as Paul Simon wrote – “DAYS OF MIRACLE AND WONDER.”

... Times of great joy ... and, yes, some sadness, too.

My mission has always been the same: To serve each and every one of you with honesty and integrity, never betraying the trust that was placed on my shoulders.

I'm often asked what was my proudest moment.

Well, beyond becoming John's wife – and mother of his children – when I think back on all that we've done together – I think my proudest moment is when we moved Arizona from its dark economic times, and forged the Arizona Comeback.

Arizona is a success story ... not because of what I've done – but because of what we've done together – as neighbors, as a community, and as a state.

Think about this: When I became Governor, I inherited the worst state budget deficit in the nation.

But, we rolled up our sleeves and went to work.

As a result, we have brought Arizona from a \$3 billion deficit – to a more balanced budget – and a restored Rainy Day Fund.

Of course, we all recognize that enormous challenges are still ahead.

But I'm proud that we've laid a sound and sturdy budget foundation for the next administration – that of Governor-

Elect Doug Ducey – on which to build and carry on Arizona's Comeback!

While the economy has been our Number One focus these past few years, I am enormously proud of the historic work we have done to address several other critical priorities of my administration:

We've raised our education standards – demanding accountability ... rewarding success ... and preparing future generations to be leaders in our global economy.

We enacted a Medicaid Restoration plan that saves rural and safety net hospitals from devastating levels of uncompensated care ... injecting almost \$1.6 billion annually into the state's economy ... and protecting the more than 267,000 Arizonans who risk losing crucial, cost-effective health care.

Just this September ... after more than 30 years of contentious legal battles ... we finally reached a settlement in the *Arnold V. Sarn* lawsuit.

Also this year, we got rid of the dysfunctional Child Protective Services and created the new Department of Child Safety – a permanent, stand-alone agency with the express mission of safeguarding Arizona’s abused and neglected children.

We’ve cracked down on human trafficking by strengthening penalties and working to further protect and assist victims of trafficking.

We’ve transformed the personnel system, the procurement system, and our pension program to improve the effectiveness of state government and save taxpayer money.

And, while I’ve fought to demand that the federal government fulfill its duty to secure the border and restore integrity to our immigration system, enhancing Arizona’s cross-border economic relationship with Mexico has been one of my highest interests as governor.

In fact, just last month we opened the Arizona State Trade and Investment Office in Mexico City, strengthening and securing economic ties with our largest trading partner.

These are all things that I'm very proud of.

And, so, I will be saying farewell soon. But you will know where to find me come January ...

In my garden not far from here ... trimming ... pruning ... cultivating ...

You see? Not much will have changed for me.

I'll still be working to make things better... to make things grow ... and blossom ... and thrive... in the state I love ...

... So, that perhaps history might one day say of Jan Brewer – for all who cherish Arizona ...

“SHE DID ALL THINGS IN HER LIFE ... THAT SHE COULD.”

Thank you!

Thank you again for the award, and thank you for allowing me to be your Governor!

**May God bless you and your families, and may God always
bless and guide the great state of Arizona!**